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EARLY HISTORY OF OLMSTED COUNTY

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ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

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EARLY HISTORY OF OLMSTED COUNTY

IN THE PROGRESS OF THAT WAVE OF CIVILIZATION THAT SURGED WESTWARD FROM JAMESTOWN AND PLYMOUTH, IT WAS NEARLY TWO CENTURIES AND A HALF BEFORE THIS AREA BECAME THE HOME OF THE WHITE MAN.

BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT OF THE PEOPLE AND THE INSTITUTIONS THAT FOLLOWED THEM, IT IS IMPORTANT TO FIRST REMEMBER WHO THESE PIONEERS WERE AND WHERE THEY CAME FROM. TO DO THIS WE MUST RETURN TO VIRGINIA, THE LARGEST OF THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES, AND TO THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT JAMESTOWN AND WILLIAMSBURG PLAYED IN SHAPING THE DESTINY OF THE NORTHWEST.

IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT JAMESTOWN WAS THE FIRST PERMANENT ENGLISH SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA. THE KING'S GRANT OF 1609 TO THE SETTLEMENT WAS FOR LAND "FROM 200 MILES SOUTH OF OLD POINT COMFORT AND UP INTO THE LAND, THROUGHOUT, FROM SEA TO SEA, WEST AND NORTHWEST." ALL OF THE KING'S GRANTS RAN FROM SEA TO SEA. THE KING'S IDEA OF WIDTH OF THE CONTINENT WAS BASED ON BALBOA'S ACCOUNT OF STANDING ON THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA AND BEHOLDING BOTH OCEANS.

JAMESTOWN WHICH THIS YEAR CELEBRATES ITS 352ND YEAR SINCE ITS FOUNDING, WAS LATER MOVED TO HIGHER GROUND FROM THE JAMES RIVER TO WILLIAMSBURG. FOR 81 YEARS WILLIAMSBURG, THE CAPITOL OF VIRGINIA, SHAPED THE AFFAIRS OF THE COLONY AND LARGELY INFLUENCED THE OTHER COLONIES THROUGH SUCH PATRIOTS AS PATRICK HENRY, GEORGE WASHINGTON, THOMAS JEFFERSON, GEORGE MASON, AND GEORGE WYTHE. PERHAPS NO OTHER GROUP OF MEN IN THE BRITISH COLONIES DID AS MUCH TO FAN THE FLAMES OF INDEPENDENCE AS THIS GROUP FROM VIRGINIA.

IN 1783, THE UNITED STATES SECURED FORMAL TITLE TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY FROM GREAT BRITAIN BY THE TREATY OF PARIS. HOWEVER, IT WAS STILL NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE THE INDIAN TITLES TO THESE LANDS AND TO PREVAIL UPON THE ORIGINAL STATES TO RELINQUISH THEIR VARIOUS CLAIMS.

SO VIRGINIA CEDED HER CLAIMS TO THE LANDS NORTH OF THE OHIO RIVER IN 1784 WHICH PAVED THE WAY FOR THE OPENING OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS SETTING IN NEW YORK CITY IN 1787, PASSED THE ORDINANCE OF 1787 WHICH WAS SUBMITTED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON FROM VIRGINIA. THIS WAS TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ADOPTED THE CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S. LATER IN 1791, AND AGAIN IN 1865, THE "RIGHTS OF MAN", PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE OF 1787 BECAME AMENDMENTS TO THAT GREAT DOCUMENT. AND SO THESE TWO GREAT DECLARATIONS OF HUMAN LIBERTY BECAME THE LAW OF THIS NEW LAND AND SET THE PATTERN FOR A GOVERNMENT AND A CIVILIZATION NEW AND UNIQUE IN THE PROGRESS OF MANKIND. AND HERE BEGAN THE WESTWARD MARCH "FROM SEA TO SEA". EXCEPT FOR THE INSISTANCE OF THE AMERICAN PEACE COMMISSIONERS AT PARIS THIS VAST AREA WOULD HAVE REMAINED BRITISH TERRITORY AND OUR HISTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY ALTERED.

THE LANDS INCLUDED IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY COMPRISED ALL OF THE AREA NORTH OF THE OHIO RIVER TO THE CANADIAN BORDER AND EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI. AT THE TIME OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION, LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA WAS SAID TO BE THE LARGEST INLAND CITY OF THE U.S. AS SOON AS THE TERRITORY WAS OPENED THERE WAS THE RUSH FOR SETTLEMENT. THIS IS SHOWN BY THE RAPID

ORGANIZATION OF THIS AREA:

1800 TO 1803 OHIO FROM A TERRITORY TO A STATE
1800 TO 1816 INDIANA
1809 TO 1818 ILLINOIS
1805 TO 1837 MICHIGAN
1836 TO 1848 WISCONSIN
1849 TO 1858 MINNESOTA

ACCORDING TO GRACE LEE NUTE, PROFESSOR OF MINNESOTA HISTORY, HAMLINE UNIVERSITY, THE FRENCH DID THE EARLY EXPLORATIONS IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY. SUCH MEN AS LA SALLE, HENNEPIN, LESUEUR, NICHOLAS PERROT, DULUTH AND MANY OTHERS EXPLORED THE AREA FROM 1666 TO 1680. THE "DESCRIPTION OF LOUSIANA" BY HENNEPIN APPEARED IN PARIS IN 1683. IN IT HE DESCRIBED LAKE PEPIN. THEN FOLLOWED A PERIOD WHEN THE ENGLISH AND SPANISH TRADERS PREDOMINATED. THE SPANIARDS CAME BECAUSE OF A SECRET TREATY BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN IN 1762 WHEN ALL OF FRANCE'S TERRITORY WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI WAS CEDED TO SPAIN RATHER THAN LET IT FALL TO THE ENGLISH.

DURING OUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR INDIANS FROM THE LAKE PEPIN AREA FOUGHT IN THE CAMPAIGN ABOUT ST. LOUIS AND EVEN IN THE OHIO VALLEY. LATER IN THE WAR OF 1812 PRACTICALLY ALL THE INDIAN SOLDIERS FROM THE MINNESOTA COUNTRY SERVED THE UNION JACK. BY 1830 MISSIONARIES BEGAN TO ARRIVE AND ESTABLISH STATIONS FOR CONVERTING AND EDUCATING THE NATIVES. A SWISS PROTESTANT MISSION WAS FOUNDED AT REMNICA NOW RED WING. REPORT OF THE EXPEDITION FROM FORT ATKINSON TO THE RED RIVER BY BREVET CAPTAIN JOHN POPE, U.S. TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEER U.S. ARMY, DESCRIBES THIS AREA AS INDIAN COUNTRY AND THE ZUMBRO RIVER IS NAMED ON HIS MAP BY THE FRENCH NAME OF REVIER DE LAS EMBARRASS.

LATER IT WAS RETRANSFERRED TO FRANCE UNDER THE GREAT NAPOLEAN AND BY HIM SOLD TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1803 UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JEFFERSON KNOWN AS THE LOUSIANA PURCHASE. THE GOVERNMENT SET OUT AT ONCE TO EXPLORE THE AREA AND AMONG THOSE WERE CAPTAIN JOHN POPE AND LIEUTENANT ALBERT M. LEA. NOTES ON WISCONSIN TERRITORY PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE IOWA DISTRICT AND THE BLACK HAWK PURCHASE DATED 1836 INCLUDES A MAP OF THE AREA ON WHICH THE ZUMBRO IS CALLED THE REVIER DE LAS EMBARRASS. A THOUSAND COPIES OF THIS REPORT WERE PRIVATELY PRINTED AT 37½ CENTS PER COPY BY LIEUTENANT ALBERT M. LEA OF THE 1ST U.S. DRAGONS.

IN 1849 MINNESOTA BECAME A TERRITORY WITH SCATTERED SETTLEMENTS AROUND ST. PAUL, ST. ANTHONY, ST. PETER, STILLWATER, AND MENDOTA. A MAP OF THE TERRITORY DATED 1851 DESCRIBED ONLY NINE COUNTIES. WABASHA, SOUTH OF ST. PAUL, EXTENDED FROM THE VERMILLION RIVER AT HASTINGS TO THE IOWA LINE AND WESTWARD TO THE MISSOURI RIVER. CAPTAIN POPE IN HIS SECOND REPORT OF CONDITIONS IN THE MINNESOTA TERRITORY TO THE 31ST CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION WROTE:"THE PRESENT SETTLERS ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM THE EASTERN STATES AND THE COLDNESS OF THE CLIMATE AND THE FACT THAT THE NEW STATE WILL NECESSARILY BE A FREE STATE RENDER IT CERTAIN THAT THE FUTURE POPULATION OF MINNESOTA WILL BE COMPOSED ALMOST WHOLLY OF NEW ENGLAND PEOPLE." MARCH 21, 1850 THERE WERE FEW INLAND CITIES - MOST SETTLEMENTS WERE ALONG THE RIVERS - AND OF COURSE THERE WERE NO ROADS. LA CROSSE WAS FOUNDED IN 1842, STILLWATER IN 1843, ST. PAUL IN 1846, AND WINONA IN 1851. FOR THE MOST PART SOUTHERN MINNESOTA WAS STILL THE HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS OF THE INDIANS.

A MAP OF 1849 INDICATES THE ZUMBRO RIVER AS THE WAZIOGA RIVER, A SIOUX WORD MEANING RIVER OF OBSTACLES. AGAIN THESE LANDS HAD TO BE PURCHASED FROM THE INDIANS AND AT THE TREATY OF TRAVERSE DES SIOUX THE GOVERNMENT PURCHASED OVER 20 MILLION ACRES FOR ABOUT 2 CENTS AN ACRE, ALL OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA IN 1851. THIS TREATY WAS RATIFIED BY THE CONGRESS IN 1853. NOW THE AREA WAS READY FOR SETTLERS WHILE HERETOFORE ONLY HUNTERS DARED TRAVERSE THE AREA.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT IN OLMSTED COUNTY WAS MADE BY REFUGEES FROM THE RED RIVER VALLEY OF CANADA A FEW YEARS PRIOR TO 1836. IN 1840 THESE SETTLERS MOVED EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. IN 1841 THE FIRST FARMING SETTLEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN WHAT IS NOW ROCK DELL TOWNSHIP.

ACCORDING TO LEONARD'S HISTORY OF OLMSTED COUNTY, JACOB GOSS WAS THE FIRST SETTLER WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE COUNTY WHO LOCATED A CLAIM IN WHAT IS NOW PLEASANT GROVE TOWNSHIP IN THE SPRING OF 1853. NO OTHER SETTLEMENT IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN MADE THAT YEAR. IN 1854, HE SOLD OUT TO THE PATTRIDGE FAMILY FROM IOWA FOR $1000 AND MOVED TO ST. PAUL. [ED. NOTE - THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY AN ERROR, RECORDS REVEAL THAT HIRAM THOMPSON, WHO SETTLED IN DOVER TOWNSHIP IN THE SPRING OF 1853, WAS PROBABLY THE COUNTY'S FIRST SETTLER.]

THE GOVERNMENT LAND OFFICE WAS FIRST LOCATED AT BROWNSVILLE, LATER MOVED TO CHATFIELD AND THEN ST. PETER. CONGRESS DID NOT PASS THE HOMESTEAD LAW UNTIL 1862. EARLY SETTLERS PURCHASED THEIR LAND BY PREEMPTION, THAT IS TAKING CLAIMS OF 160 ACRES BY PAYING THE GOVERNMENT $1.25 PER ACRE.

SOMETIMES OFFERING IN PAYMENT A SOLDIER'S LAND WARRANT ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR WAR SERVICES. AS THE MIGRATION WAS FROM THE EAST IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS WERE IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTY - IN THE AREAS OF DOVER AND ELMIRA TOWNSHIP. ROCHESTER WAS SELECTED AS A TOWNSITE IN 1854 AND ON THE SAME DAY THE M.O. WALKER STAGE LINE ESTABLISHED A STOP AT ROCHESTER ON ITS ST. PAUL TO DUBUQUE RUN. STOPS WERE LATER MADE AT PLEASANT GROVE, AND ORONOCO. THE WALKER LINES OPERATED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT THE WEST FROM THE RAIL HEADS CRAWLING WESTWARD FROM CHICAGO TO THE FRONTIER. ITS SERVICE CONSISTED OF AN OLD CANVASS COVERED HACK OR A CONCORD COACH DRAWN BY 4 OR 6 HORSES. ROCHESTER WAS TO BECOME A HUB FOR STAGE LINES UNTIL THE COMING OF THE WINONA & ST. PETER R.R. IN 1864.

CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION HAS BEEN COLLECTED CONCERNING THE OLD DUBUQUE TRAIL AND THE STAGES OF MARTIN O. WALKER. THE LATE DR. A.H. SANFORD OF ROCHESTER PRESENTED A PAPER ON THE SUBJECT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OLMSTED COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1951, "EARLY IMMIGRANT TRAILS OF MINNESOTA". THREE TRIPS EACH WAY FROM ST. PAUL AND DUBUQUE WERE MADE EACH WEEK. THE PASSENGER FARE WAS $20 AND THE TRIP TOOK FROM 4 TO 5 DAYS. THERE WERE STOPS EVERY FIFTEEN MILES FOR FRESH HORSES AND REFRESHMENTS AND OVERNIGHT LODGINGS. THE STAGES ALSO CARRIED THE MAIL. THE MAIL CONTRACT WAS FOR $9000 A YEAR. POSTAGE RATES WERE 5 CENTS A LETTER FOR LESS THAN 300 MILES. THE DUBUQUE TRAIL WAS 272 MILES IN LENGTH. ALTHOUGH NO TRACES REMAIN OF THE ROUTE THROUGH ROCHESTER, IT HAS BEEN FAIRLY DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED THAT IT CROSSED THE ZUMBRO RIVER ABOUT WHERE THE NEW BRIDGE IN MAYO PARK IS

ERECTED AND CONTINUED GENERALLY ALONG THIRD AVE. S.E. WHICH WAS CALLED DUBUQUE STREET. THE ROUTE THEN CONTINUED ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF THE AIRPORT OUT TO THE SIMPSON ROAD PAST THE KENNEDY FARM ACROSS THE ROOT RIVER AND ON TO PLEASANT GROVE. IT WAS PERHAPS THE MOST TRAVELED ROAD IN THE NEW TERRITORY. THE IRON-BOUND WHEELS OF TEN THOUSAND WAGONS SCARRED ITS PATH THROUGH THE FORESTED HILLS AND VALLEYS OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA. IT WAS THE STATES FIRST PRACTICAL OVERLAND ARTERY FOR COMMERCE AND IMMIGRATION. THOUSANDS OF LAND SEEKERS UNABLE TO AFFORD STEAMBOAT PASSAGE FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND CATTLE JAMMED THE TERRITORIAL ROAD WITH WAGON TRAINS "FIVE MILES LONG." SETTLEMENTS SPRUNG UP ALONG THE ROUTE OVERNIGHT TO SUPPLY THE TRAVELERS.

A REPORT FROM GALENA, ILLINOIS IN 1855, WHERE THE RAILROAD ENDED FROM CHICAGO, ESTIMATED THAT A THOUSAND PEOPLE TRAVELED THROUGH THEIR TOWN EACH DAY BOUND FOR MINNESOTA.

DURING THE EARLY WINTER OF 1854, A PARTY OF 200 INDIANS CAMPED ALONG THE CASCADE CREEK NEAR THE SITE OF A MILL LATER TO BE CONSTRUCTED THERE DURING WHICH TIME FOUR OF THEIR NUMBER TOOK SICK AND DIED. THEY WERE BURIED ON THE POINT OF THE BLUFF ON THE NORTH EDGE OF ROCHESTER NEAR THE DONAHUE QUARRY. THE FOUR GRAVES WERE VISIBLE HERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS UNTIL THE CYCLONE OF 1883. INDIAN HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION OF ROCHESTER TAKES ITS NAME FROM THIS EARLY INDIAN VISITATION. OCCASIONALLY SMALL PARTIES OF INDIANS WOULD CAMP FOR A FEW DAYS ON THEIR WAY TO AND FROM THE MISSISSIPPI AS LATE AS 1862. ACCOUNTS TELL OF A PARTY OF INDIANS THAT STAYED A COUPLE OF DAYS NEAR THE ROCHESTER COURT HOUSE.

THE FIRST WINTERS WERE SEASONS OF SCARCITY AND POVERTY - THE HOMES WERE MILES APART - PRIMITIVE. THE SEVERE COLD AND HEAVY SNOWS, LACK OF ROADS, ALL ADDED TO THE PIONEER'S ISOLATION. THE EARLY ACCOUNTS TELL OF SNOW SO DEEP THAT THE DEER COULD BE KILLED WITH CLUBS AND THAT WOOD HAD TO BE HAULED ON HAND SLEDS.

IT WAS DURING THE 6TH SESSION OF THE TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE IN 1855, THAT OLMSTED COUNTY WAS ORGANIZED AND NAMED ALONG WITH 11 OTHERS IN S.E. MINNESOTA. LAND AREAS WERE TAKEN FROM WINONA, FILLMORE AND WABASHA ALTHOUGH 2 TOWNSHIPS IN THE NORTHEAST WERE GIVEN TO WABASHA COUNTY. THE DESIRE TO BRING HIGH FOREST INTO THE COUNTY LED TO TAKING THE 12 SECTIONS FROM MOWER COUNTY ON THE SOUTH. THE COUNTY WAS NAMED AFTER DAVID OLMSTED, A VERY POPULAR MAN IN THE TERRITORY. IN 1851, HE WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE 1ST TERRITORIAL COUNCIL AND AT AGE OF 30 WAS ELECTED THE FIRST MAYOR OF ST. PAUL IN 1854. HE LATER BECAME A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER. IN 1855, HE MOVED TO THE VILLAGE OF WINONA. HE LATER BECAME ILL, WENT TO CUBA FOR HIS HEALTH AND IN FEBRUARY 1861, RETURNED TO HIS HOME IN FAIRFAX, VERMONT AND DIED. HE WAS KNOWN AS FRIEND OF THE INDIAN - FOR HIS HONESTY AND INTEGRITY. THERE IS NO RECORD OF HIS EVER HAVING BEEN HERE BUT THE RECORDS DISCLOSE THAT HE OWNED AN INTEREST IN SOME LAND IN EAST ROCHESTER. HE ORGINALLY CAME TO THE TERRITORY AS A FUR TRADER.

OLMSTED COUNTY CONSISTS OF 666 SQUARE MILES OF LAND, 18 ORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS, EACH SIX MILES SQUARE, COMPRISING 426,210 ACRES OF RICH, VIRGIN SOIL, TIMBERLAND AND SEVERAL STREAMS. IT WAS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF S.E. MINNESOTA 30 MILES IN LENGTH AND 25MILES IN WIDTH.

WILLIAM D. LOWRY OF ROCHESTER BECAME THE FIRST COUNCILMAN AND JOHN H. HARTENBOWER, OF PLEASANT GROVE TOWNSHIP WAS THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE FROM OLMSTED COUNTY. LOWRY WAS A NATIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA AND CAME TO ROCHESTER IN 1854. HE WAS THE PERSON WHO INTRODUCED THE FAMOUS BILL TO MOVE THE STATE CAPITOL FROM ST. PAUL TO ST. PETER - WHICH PASSED BOTH HOUSES BUT WAS LATER LOST AND NEVER BECAME LAW. HARTENBOWER WAS ALSO A NATIVE OF PENNSYLVANIA, VERY POPULAR AND A GOOD FARMER. HE MOVED TO MISSOURI IN 1860.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ITS FIRST MEETING AUGUST 27, 1855 AT ORONOCO AND ESTABLISHED ROAD DISTRICT NUMBER 1 INCLUDING ORONOCO, ROCHESTER AND PLEASANT GROVE. THE SECOND MEETING WAS HELD IN ROCHESTER ON SEPTEMBER 13 TO NAME AND DEFINE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWNSHIPS. THE NAMES AND BOUNDARIES HAVE BEEN CHANGED AT VARIOUS TIMES SO THAT TODAY THERE IS DOVER INSTEAD OF WHITEWATER, EYOTA INSTEAD OF SPRINGFIELD, VIOLA INSTEAD OF WASHINGTON AND HAVERHILL INSTEAD OF ZUMBRO. AT THIS SECOND MEETING TWO SCHOOL DISTRICTS WERE ORGANIZED. A THIRD AND FOURTH WERE ORGANIZED LATER IN THE SAME YEAR, 31 IN 1856, 24 IN 1857, 18 IN 1858 AND 51 BETWEEN 1859 AND 1867 MAKING A TOTAL OF 128.

TO GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF THE RAPID GROWTH IN POPULATION THERE WERE 732 SCHOLARS IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY BY FEBRUARY, 1857, 1466 IN JANUARY, 1858 AND 2990 IN MARCH, 1860. SANFORD NILES WAS APPOINTED SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS JANUARY 4, 1866. THE FREE TEXTBOOK SYSTEM WAS RECOMMENDED JANUARY 8, 1890. THE FIRST SERIOUS ATTEMPT AT SETTING UP A UNIFORM COURSE OF STUDY FOR THE ELEMENTARY GRADES THROUGHOUT THE STATE WAS MADE BY SANFORD NILES IN 1871.

SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA GAINED MORE OF THE INCOMING POPULATION THAN ANY OTHER SECTION OF THE TERRITORY. VILLAGES SPRANG UP AS IF BY MAGIC, HAMLETS BECAME THRIVING VILLAGES AND TOWNS AND FARMS WERE SETTLED IN AREAS NO ONE DREAMED WOULD BE SETTLED FOR YEARS TO COME.

ROCHESTER WAS NAMED A TOWNSITE IN THE SUMMER OF 1854 ALONG WITH PLEASANT GROVE AND ORONOCO AND HIGH FOREST. MARION WAS PLATTED IN 1855 AND BYRON IN 1864. GEORGE HEAD, WHO WELL MAY BE CONSIDERED THE FOUNDER OF ROCHESTER, BUILT A LOG HOUSE AT A SITE WHICH WAS LATER TO BE THE SOUTH END OF BROADWAY AND TOOK OVER THE PREVIOUS CLAIM FOR A TOWNSITE MADE BY A PARTY FROM WINONA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SON JONATHAN AND HIS FATHER JOHN WHO WAS AN ELDERLY MAN. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE LAYING OUT OF THE MAIN STREET WHICH WAS TO BECOME BROADWAY WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY DRAGGING A LOG BY OXEN THROUGH THE BRUSH THE LENGTH OF THE STREET. MRS. HEAD DEDICATED THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE OF THE FUTURE CITY BY RIDING ALONG IT ON HORSEBACK. THIS SCENE IS DEPICTED IN THE POST OFFICE MURAL. HEAD WAS A NATIVE OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK AND THE WATER FALL IN THE ZUMBRO RIVER REMINDED HIM OF THE WATERFALL OF THE GENESSE RIVER IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK SO HE NAMED HIS TOWNSITE ROCHESTER. GEORGE HEAD ENGAGED IN VARIOUS BUSINESS VENTURES IN ROCHESTER AND FINALLY MOVED TO FERGUS FALLS IN 1873. HE WENT TO BERMUDA FOR HIS HEALTH AND DIED THERE IN 1883. HIS BODY WAS RETURNED TO ROCHESTER. HE AND MRS. HEAD ARE BURIED IN OAKWOOD CEMETARY.

CUMMINGSVILLE WAS PLATTED BY FRANCIS H. CUMMINGS IN 1855. DOUGLAS IS ANOTHER RAILWAY VILLAGE AND WAS NAMED FOR HARRISON DOUGLASS,

OWNER OF ITS SITE. HE CAME TO MINNESOTA IN 1855 AND WAS THE FIRST BLACKSMITH IN THE COUNTY AND BUILT A GRAIN ELEVATOR IN DOUGLAS IN 1878. EYOTA AND DOVER WERE ALSO RAILWAY VILLAGES AND WERE PLATTED IN 1864 AND 1869 RESPECTIVELY. GENOA WAS FIRST SETTLED IN 1856, WAS PLATTED IN 1865, AND IS NAMED AFTER THE FAMOUS SEAPORT IN ITALY, THE BIRTHPLACE OF COLUMBUS. POTSDAM WAS FOUNDED ABOUT 1860 AND NAMED BY ITS GERMAN SETTLERS. PREDMORE, A RAILWAY STATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1891 AND NAMED FOR J.W. PREDMORE WHO CAME AS A PIONEER SETTLER TO THIS TOWNSHIP IN 1854. SIMPSON IS ALSO A RAILWAY VILLAGE WAS PLATED IN 1890 AND NAMED IN HONOR OF THOMAS SIMPSON OF WINONA, SECRETARY OF WINONA AND SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY. STEWARTVILLE WAS FOUNDED BY CHARLES STEWART WHO CAME FROM NEW YORK IN THE SPRING OF 1857 AND BUILT A MILL THERE IN 1858. VIOLA IS A RAILWAY VILLAGE PLATTED IN 1878.

MANY OF THE FIRST SETTLERS SOLD OUT AND PUSHED FURTHUR WEST AND TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE WERE DAILY OCCURENCES IN THE EARLY YEARS. THEN FOLLOWED A GREAT RUSH OF IMMIGRANTS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES. SCANDINAVIAN, IRISH, AND GERMAN. THE TOWNSHIPS OF ROCK DELL AND SALEM WERE SETTLED ALMOST ENTIRELY BY NORWEGIANS, PARTS OF MARION AND HAVERHILL BY THE IRISH AND PART OF FARMINGTON BY GERMANS. IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN INTERESTING SIGHT TO SEE THESE PRAIRIE SCHOONERS, WAGONS COVERED WITH CANVASS SOMETIMES WITH OIL CLOTH DRAWN BY 2 OR 4 HORSES OR OXEN PACKED WITH HOUSEHOLD GOODS, COOPS OF CHICKENS ON BEHIND WITH COWS AND HORSES DRIVEN BY CHILDREN FOLLOWED BY THE FAMILY DOG. BETWEEN 200 AND 300

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PASSED THROUGH ROCHESTER ON A SINGLE DAY. ONE OF THE EARLIEST PICTURES WE HAVE OF ROCHESTER IS DATED 1858 WITH ITS MAIN STREET FILLED WITH SETTLERS, THEIR WAGONS AND STOCK.

IN THE SPRING OF 1857, THE QUESTION OF THE LOCATION OF THE COUNTY SEAT WAS TO BE MADE BY POPULAR VOTE. AT THAT TIME ORONOCO AND MARION WERE TOWNS OF EQUAL PROMISE WITH ROCHESTER. ROCHESTER WAS FAVORED BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION IN THE CENTER OF THE COUNTY, BUT MARION WAS A REAL RIVAL AND THE CONTEST BECAME VERY BITTER. DESPITE THE CHARGES OF "SKILLDUGGERY" AND "GRAFT" ROCHESTER WON AND BECAME THE COUNTY SEAT.

THE FALL OF 1858 MIGHT BE CALLED THE "GOLD-RUSH DAYS" OF OLMSTED COUNTY. LITTLE NUGGETS OF GOLD WERE FOUND IN THE ZUMBRO RIVER AT ORONOCO AND AT ROCHESTER. MINING WAS CONDUCTED ABOUT 5 MILES BELOW ORONOCO ON A BUSINESS-LIKE SCALE BUT THE SPRING FLOOD WATERS IN 1859 WASHED AWAY THEIR SLUICES. SOME ATTEMPT WAS MADE AGAIN TO MINE THE GOLD AND SOME SMALL AMOUNTS WERE REPORTED FOUND. ATTEMPTS WERE LATER MADE IN 1875 AND IN RECENT YEARS TO LOCATE A PAYING STRIKE BUT TO NO AVAIL. ONE OF THE ORIGINAL NUGGETS SOLD FOR $20 WAS GIVEN TO ELIZER DAMON, ROCHESTER PIONEER JEWELER, FATHER OF MRS. W.J. MAYO AND FROM WHICH HE MADE A DOZEN OR MORE RINGS. DR. E.C. CROSS HAD A SET OF WAISTCOAT BUTTONS MADE FROM ORONOCO GOLD.

A TWO STORY FRAME BUILDING BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT AVALON HOTEL COMPLETED IN 1858, WAS THE FIRST COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

IT WAS BUILT BY CHARLES H. LINDSEY AND RENTED TO THE COUNTY. THE FIRST STORY WAS USED FOR COUNTY OFFICES AND THE SECOND STORY AS A COURT ROOM AND PUBLIC MEETING PLACE AND CHURCH. THE BASEMENT WAS USED FOR A TIME AS A SCHOOL ROOM. IT WAS USED UNTIL 1866 WHEN THE PRESENT COURT HOUSE WAS BUILT. THE SECOND FLOOR WAS LATER USED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. IT WAS LATER REMODELED AS A HOTEL AND WAS KNOWN AS THE NORTHWESTERN HOTEL UNTIL IT WAS DEMOLISHED AND THE PRESENT STRUCTURE BUILT.

MOSES W. FAY CAME FROM INDIANA IN 1856 AND PRACTICED LAW. HE WAS THE FIRST MAYOR OF ROCHESTER AND WAS LATER ELECTED JUDGE OF PROBATE IN 1863 AND POSTMASTER FROM 1866 TO 1867. WHEN HE DIED AT THE AGE OF 44, HIS WIFE SUCCEEDED HIM IN OFFICE. JOSEPH A. LEONARD, BORN IN MARYLAND CAME TO ROCHESTER IN 1858, WAS ADMITTED TO THE BAR AND BECAME A MEMBER OF THE LAW FIRM OF FAY AND LEONARD. HE WAS COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR ONE TERM, FIRST REPUBLICAN POSTMASTER OF ROCHESTER APPOINTED BY LINCOLN IN 1861, BECAME EDITOR OF THE ROCHESTER POST IN 1865 AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH W.S. BOOTH, RAN THIS PAPER FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. HE SERVED ONE TERM AS STATE SENATOR. HE WAS ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM, NOW THE ROCHESTER STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE. HE SERVED THREE YEARS AS THE U.S. CONSUL AT EDINBURGH AND ONE YEAR AS CONSUL GENERAL AT CALCUTTA AND LATER FOUR YEARS AS CONSUL GENERAL AT SHANGHAI. HE DIED IN 1908. HE WROTE THE SECOND HISTORY OF OLMSTED COUNTY. THE FIRST WAS BY W.H.MITCHELL IN 1866.

AS EARLY AS 1852, A ROUTE WAS EXPLORED FROM WINONA WESTWARD TO TRAVERSE DES SIOUX FOR A RAILROAD. THE PROJECT WAS REVIVED IN 1854 AND IN 1856 A CHARTER WAS OBTAINED FROM THE LEGISLATURE AND A COMPANY, THE TRANSIT R.R. COMPANY FORMED. IN 1857 THE CONGRESS VOTED IT 1,200,000 ACRES OF LAND TO AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROAD. THE LINE WAS TO GO ALMOST DIRECTLY ACROSS THE CENTER OF OLMSTED COUNTY FROM EAST TO WEST. THE GRADING PROGRESSED AS FAR AS ROCHESTER IN 1859 WHEN HARD TIMES HIT AGAIN AND WORK HAD TO BE SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. IN 1862 THE COMPANY WAS REORGANIZED UNDER THE NAME OF THE WINONA AND ST. PETER R.R. COMPANY AND THE WORK RESUMED. THE TRACKS WERE COMPLETED TO ROCHESTER IN THE FALL OF 1864. THE NAME OF THE ROAD WAS CHANGED MANY TIMES BUT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN. PRIOR TO THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD FARMERS HAD TO HAUL THEIR GRAIN BY TEAM TO THE RAIL HEADS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, THE TRIP REQUIRING SEVERAL DAYS. THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD BROUGHT MUCH PROSPERITY TO ROCHESTER AND IT RAPIDLY DEVELOPED INTO A GRAIN MARKET. AS THE HORN OF THE STAGE COACH DRIVER GREW DIMMER, IN 1890, THE SECOND RAILROAD, THE CHICAGO GREAT WESTERN, REACHED ROCHESTER WHICH PROVIDED SOME NORTH AND SOUTH TRANSPORATION.

A BARREL OF KEROSENE OIL, THE FIRST IN THE MARKET AT ROCHESTER WAS SOLD BY J.S. WOODARD, A DRUGGIST IN 1860 FOR $1.20 A GALLON. THIS MEANT FOR MOST OF THE SETTLERS THAT THEY WERE STILL USING THE HOME MADE CANDLE FOR LIGHTING. AS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVED, THE PRICE WAS GRADUALLY REDUCED UNTIL IT RETAILED AT 13 CENTS A GALLON.

THE FIRST COUNTY FAIR WAS HELD AT THE OLD COURT HOUSE AT ROCHESTER IN 1860. THE OLMSTED COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED AND THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING WAS HELD IN 1860. COUNTY FAIRS WERE HELD EVERY YEAR UNTIL 1866 WHEN THE STATE FAIR WAS HELD IN ROCHESTER. THE AGRICULTURE OF THIS AREA WAS THEN MUCH BETTER DEVELOPED THAN THE AREA AROUND ST. PAUL SO THE SECOND STATE FAIR WAS HELD IN ROCHESTER IN 1867. IN 1868 IT WAS HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS. LOCAL MERCHANTS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING THE STATE FAIR BACK TO ROCHESTER IN 1869. THE ADVANTAGES OF A FAIR AT ROCHESTER LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA FAIR ASSOCIATION IN 1882 BY ROCHESTER MERCHANTS. THEY WERE AGAIN SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE STATE FAIR AT ROCHESTER IN 1882 FOR THE LAST TIME, BUT THE COUNTY FAIRS AT ROCHESTER CONTINUED TO BE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE AREA UNTIL 1900 WHEN THE FAIR ASSOCIATION DISSOLVED AND SOLD THEIR PROPERTY.

THE WAR OF THE REBELLION AS THE CIVIL WAR WAS CALLED HAD ITS IMPACT ON OLMSTED COUNTY. THE STATE OF MINNESOTA SENT MORE THAN HALF OF ITS VOTING POPULATION TO THE WAR. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT GOVERNOR RAMSEY MADE THE FIRST TENDER OF TROOPS TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND MINNESOTA WAS CALLED UPON FOR ONE REGIMENT, BUT SUCH WAS THE LOYALTY OF ITS CITIZENS THAT NEARLY TWO REGIMENTS VOLUNTEERED AT THE FIRST CALL. THE POPULATION OF OLMSTED COUNTY WAS BUT 12,000. IT FURNISHED DURING THE FOUR YEARS OF THE WAR, 1250 VOLUNTEERS. THE ROLL OF HONOR FOR OLMSTED COUNTY IS MOST IMPRESSIVE AND INCLUDED IN THE RECORDS ARE THE FREQUENT REFERENCES TO IMPRISONMENT AT ANDERSONVILLE

AND "SENT TO ANDERSONVILLE, WHERE HE DIED." THERE WAS NO ACTUAL CONSCRIPTION OF RECRUITS IN OLMSTED COUNTY THOUGH DRAFTS WERE ORDERED AT LEAST TWICE AND THE NAMES WERE DRAWN FOR CONSCRIPTION, BUT THESE PERSONS WERE NEVER CALLED UPON FOR SERVICE. THIS LED TO THE BOUNTY SYSTEM WHERE SEVERAL TOWNSHIPS BONDED THEMSELVES TO BORROW MONEY TO PAY BOUNTIES TO VOLUNTEERS.

THE STATE WAS DIVIDED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT INTO TWO ENLISTMENT DISTRICTS. THE FIRST DISTRICT INCLUDED OLMSTED COUNTY AND ROCHESTER WAS MADE THE RECRUITING STATION IN 1863. DR. W.W. MAYO MOVED FROM LESUEUR TO ROCHESTER AS EXAMINING SURGEON FOR RECRUITS WHO CLAIMED EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY SERVICE BY PHYSICAL DISABILITY. LESS THAN A THIRD OF SUCH APPLICANTS WERE EXEMPTED. DR. MAYO REMAINED IN ROCHESTER AND DEVELOPED ONE OF THE LARGEST CITY AND RURAL MEDICAL PRACTICES IN SOUTHERN MINNESOTA.

THE STATE CENSUS OF 1865 IS OF INTEREST AT THIS POINT TO ATTEST TO THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE NEW STATE. MINNESOTA POPULATION WAS GIVEN AS 248,847 A GAIN OF 77,494 IN FIVE YEARS.

THE POPULATION OF OLMSTED COUNTY WAS 15,176 WITH 2711 FAMILIES COMPRISING 8,019 MALES AND 7,157 FEMALES. ROCHESTER HAD A POPULATION OF 2,663 -- WINONA 4,439 -- ST. PAUL 13,000 AND MINNEAPOLIS 4,608.

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTY WAS STARTED IN THE FALL OF 1856 - THE ORONOCO COURIER - AND RANKED AMONG THE FIRST CLASS NEWSPAPERS OF THE TERRITORY. IN 1857 THE

OLMSTED COUNTY JOURNAL BEGAN PUBLICATION IN ROCHESTER AND WAS LATER SOLD AND BECAME THE FREE PRESS. THE ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER DEMOCRATIC PATRONAGE IN 1857. IN 1859 THE ROCHESTER CITY NEWS MADE ITS FIRST APPEARANCE. ALL THESE PUBLICATIONS LASTED ABOUT ONE YEAR DUE TO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. THE ROCHESTER CITY POST BEGAN IN 1859 AND WAS REPUBLICAN IN POLITICS AND AS MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY WERE OF THE SAME POLITICAL INTEREST, IT COULD HARDLY FAIL. IT WAS OWNED BY THE BLAKELY BROTHERS AND THE NAME WAS LATER CHANGED TO THE POST AND RECORD AND LATER MERGED WITH THE ROCHESTER DAILY BULLETIN TO BECOME THE POST BULLETIN. WE HAVE IN THE OLMSTED COUNTY MUSEUM A COMPLETE FILE OF THE POST BEGINNING WITH 1859 TO 1912 WHICH IS ONE OF THE RICHEST HISTORICAL RECORDS IN THE STATE. ANOTHER PAPER, THE ROCHESTER REPUBLICAN BEGAN OPERATION IN 1860, BUT DID NOT LONG SURVIVE. IT WAS OWNED AND EDITED BY W.H. MITCHELL WHO PUBLISHED THE FIRST HISTORY OF OLMSTED COUNTY IN 1866.

THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE BUILT IN THE COUNTY WAS IN THE TOWN OF ELMIRA NEAR THE VILLAGE OF CHATFIELD. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1856. IN 1865 THERE WERE 101 PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE AMOUNT PAID TO TEACHERS WAS $9,429.73. THE NUMBER OF MALE TEACHERS WAS 32 WITH AN AVERAGE WAGE OF $26.42 PER MONTH; FEMALE TEACHERS NUMBERED 111, WITH AN AVERAGE OF $14.68 PER MONTH. THE CITIZENS OF ROCHESTER TOOK SPECIAL PRIDE IN THE EARLY DAYS TO PROVIDE PERMANENT BUILDINGS RATHER THAN "CHEAP" TEMPORARY STRUCTURES. IN 1866 THEY VOTED A $25,000 BOND ISSUE TO BUILD TWO BRICK SCHOOLS - ONE IN EAST ROCHESTER AND A LARGE CENTRAL SCHOOL BUILDING

IN THE SECOND WARD. THIS WAS COMPLETED IN 1868 AT A COST OF $75,000 AND THE CITY BOASTED THAT ROCHESTER WAS SECOND TO NONE IN THE STATE IN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. THE BUILDING WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1910. IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT SANFORD NILES, OF SALEM HAD BEEN APPOINTED COUNTY SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS IN 1865. IN THAT SAME YEAR HE ORGANIZED THE FIRST TEACHERS INSTITUTE WHICH WAS HELD IN THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ROCHESTER WITH 45 TEACHERS IN ATTENDANCE. THESE SESSIONS CONTINUED FOR MANY YEARS WITH GREAT SUCCESS AND ATTRACTED TEACHERS FROM DISTANT PLACES.

THE BICYCLE, FIRST CALLED THE VELOCIPEDE, THE HIGH WHEEL MACHINE WAS FIRST USED IN 1868 IN ROCHESTER. IT WAS USED BY A FEW, BUT LACK OF GOOD ROADS AND ITS AWKWARDNESS NEVER MADE IT A POPULAR VEHICLE. THE "SAFETY" BICYCLE WAS VERY POPULAR; CLUBS WERE FORMED AND SOME PERSONS PURCHASED THE TWO-SEATER OR THE FOUR SEATER SO THAT THE YOUNG COUPLES COULD PAIR OFF ON THEIR CYCLING EXCURSIONS. EDITH GRAHAM MAYO WAS SAID TO HAVE HAD THE FIRST WOMEN'S SAFETY BICYCLE IN ROCHESTER.

THE COOK HOTEL WAS BUILT IN 1869 AND SAID TO BE THE FINEST HOTEL IN THE STATE. THE ROCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS ORGANIZED THE FOLLOWING YEAR AND THE LITTLE GIANT FIRE ENGINE WAS PURCHASED. THE CENSUS OF THE COUNTY FOR 1870 WAS 20,321, AN INCREASE OF 10,977 OVER THE 1860 CENSUS. THE POPULATION OF ROCHESTER WAS 4,544.

WOOD WAS OF COURSE ABUNDANT FOR FUEL UNTIL THE FORESTS OF NEW HAVEN AND KALMER TOWNSHIPS WERE DEPLETED IN 1860. WOOD SOLD FOR $1.75 TO $2.00 A CORD IN ROCHESTER. THE WINONA AND ST.

PETER R.R. CHANGED FROM WOOD BURNERS TO COAL IN 1877. SEVERAL CAR LOADS OF COAL WERE BROUGHT TO ROCHESTER AND SOLD BY HARDWARE MERCHANTS IN 1873 THUS ENDING ONE OF THE MOST UNPLEASANT CHORES THE PIONEER HAD TO DO, THE CUTTING AND HAULING OF THE YEAR'S SUPPLY OF FIREWOOD.

IN 1873 A STATE LAW TAXED ALL PERSONS SELLING LIQUOR $10 A YEAR FOR THE CREATION OF A FUND TO SUPPORT THE INEBRIATE ASYLUM TO BE ESTABLISHED AT ROCHESTER. THE BUILDING WAS BUILT IN 1873, BUT BY THIS TIME THE OPPOSITION TO THE TAX HAD BECOME SO STRONG THAT IT WAS CARRIED TO THE SUPREME COURT WHICH SUSTAINED ITS CONSTITUTIONALITY BUT THIS OPPOSITION CAUSED THE PURPOSE OF THE INSTITUTION TO BE CHANGED TO THE SECOND HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE FOR WHICH THERE WAS A NEED, THE FIRST ONE LOCATED AT ST. PETER BEING OVERCROWDED. THE ROCHESTER STATE HOSPITAL OPENED IN 1879 WITH A HUNDRED PATIENTS.

IN 1877 TWENTY-FOUR SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS FROM THE ST. FRANCIS CONVENT AT JOLIET, ILLINOIS FOUNDED IN ROCHESTER THE CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES. THE MOTHER CHURCH OF THE CATHOLICS IN OLMSTED COUNTY IS THE PARISH OF ST. BRIDGET'S ORGANIZED IN PLEASANT GROVE TOWNSHIP IN 1859 BY FATHER PENDERGAST FROM WINONA.

ON AUGUST 21, 1883, THE FAMOUS ROCHESTER TORNADO STRUCK AT 6:36 P.M. COMPLETELY DEVASTING ALL OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE CITY INCLUDING 300 DWELLINGS. WITH 35 DEAD AND 300 INJURED, THE COMMUNITY WAS FORCED TO USE LODGE HALLS AND DANCE HALLS AS IMPROVISED HOSPITAL WARDS. THE NEED FOR HOSPITAL FACILITIES WAS APPARENT AND THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS LATER OFFERED TO BUILD A HOSPITAL. DR. W.W. MAYO AGREED TO BECOME A

MEMBER OF ITS STAFF. THE BUILDING OPENED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1889 WITH 27 BEDS AND ONE OPERATING ROOM. THIS BUILDING WAS THEN ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ROCHESTER. THERE WAS NO ELECTRIC LIGHTS, RUNNING WATER, GAS OR TELEPHONES. THE NURSES MADE ROUNDS AT NIGHT WITH A LANTERN. WHEN THEY WANTED DR. MAYO THEY SENT SOMEONE DOWNTOWN BY TEAM FOR HIM WHICH TOOK ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES AND LONGER IF ON FOOT. ROCHESTER DID NOT ESTABLISH A SEWAGE SYSTEM UNTIL 1895 AND A PRIVATE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE SAME YEAR. THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY WAS DEDICATED AND OPENED IN 1898.

RURAL FREE MAIL DELIVERY WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTY IN 1900. LATER IN 1905 THE POST OFFICES AT MARION, GENOA, ROCK DELL AND PLEASANT GROVE AND POTSDAM WERE DISCONTINUED AS THE RURAL CARRIER EXTENDED HIS ROUTES. BY 1900 THE POPULATION OF THE COUNTY HAD GROWN TO 23,119. THE FIRST HORSELESS CARRIAGE TO APPEAR IN ROCHESTER WAS A FIVE HORSEPOWER MOTOR CARRIAGE OWNED BY T.O. KILBURN OF SPRING VALLEY WHO DROVE TO ROCHESTER AND DISPLAYED IT IN 1898. DR. C.H. MAYO OWNED THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE IN THE COUNTY IN JANUARY, 1900. IT WAS A 4 HORSEPOWER STEAMER. ON NEW YEARS DAY, 1900, THE DRS. MAYO, STINCHFIELD AND GRAHAM MOVED THEIR OFFICES FROM THE MASSEY BUILDING TO THE MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING AND THUS BEGAN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST MEDICAL GROUP PRACTICE IN THE WORLD. FROM THIS GROUP, THE MAYO FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH WAS LATER FORMED WHICH IS TODAY THE LARGEST MEDICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL IN THE WORLD. THUS WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY OLMSTED COUNTY WAS WELL ON ITS WAY OF BECOMING ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING COUNTIES OF THE STATE. FROM AN IMPORTANT

PRIMARY WHEAT MARKET IN THE PIONEER DAYS,
IT HAS NOW BECOME ONE OF THE RICHEST DAIRYING
REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE LARGEST
SINGLE DAIRY UNIT IN THE WORLD OWNED AND OPERATED
BY MORE THAN 4,400 DAIRY FARMERS OF THE AREA.

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